

14. (Amended) A method for handling a sample in a multi-channel capillary electrophoresis apparatus comprising:

providing a sample located on a work surface at a work surface coordinate, wherein the temperature of the work surface is controlled by a temperature controller;

transferring the sample from the work surface coordinate to a loading well not located on the work surface, wherein the loading well includes a capillary fixedly positioned therein; and

injecting the sample from the loading well into [a] the capillary [electrophoresis capillary].

II. REMARKS

Claims 1-13 have been canceled because they are being pursued in a related application. Claim 14 has been amended. Claims 14-17 are pending.

Amendments

Claim 14 has been amended to incorporate a temperature-controlled work surface. Support for the amendment may be found at originally-filed claim 2 and at page 18 line 6 of the specification.

III. CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR TIME EXTENSION and FEE AUTHORIZATION

If any additional time extensions are required, such time extensions are hereby requested. If any additional fees not submitted with this response are required, please take such fees from deposit account number **01-2213**.

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Applied Biosystems
850 Lincoln Centre Drive
Foster City, California 94404
TEL: 650-638-5846
FAX: 650-638-6677

Respectfully submitted,



Paul D. Grossman, Ph.D.
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 36,537

APPENDIX

Pending Claims

14. (Amended) A method for handling a sample in a multi-channel capillary electrophoresis apparatus comprising:

providing a sample located on a work surface at a work surface coordinate, wherein the temperature of the work surface is controlled by a temperature controller;

transferring the sample from the work surface coordinate to a loading well not located on the work surface, wherein the loading well includes a capillary fixedly positioned therein; and

injecting the sample from the loading well into the capillary.

15. The method of **claim 14** wherein the work surface coordinate is defined by a sample well.

16. The method of **claim 14** wherein the loading well is located in a sample loading assembly.

17. The method of **claim 14** wherein the injecting is performed by electrokinetic injection.